

IDEA 1623

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11 DEC 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Resumption of [REDACTED] Program

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1. On 9 December 1963 [REDACTED] called to relate the results of a Special Group meeting on 6 December 1963 at which the question of the resumption of [REDACTED] was considered.

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2. By way of background to this meeting, attention is drawn to the Special Group minute published by [REDACTED] on 4 December. In this minute [REDACTED] recorded the results of his telephone poll of the Special Group to consider the December 1963 NRO Monthly Forecast. In this poll both State and Defense deferred approval of the "bank of four missions" in [REDACTED] until the revision of the [REDACTED] contingency plan had been approved and published. Mr. [REDACTED] explained to me during the morning of 6 December that [REDACTED] had taken exception to the positions of State and Defense. In this whole exchange on 6 December, it became apparent that neither State nor Defense had been told of the meeting the Director had with President Johnson on 30 November 1963; and therefore they were unaware of President Johnson's reaffirmation of the 14 November decision to resume the [REDACTED] program.

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3. [REDACTED] went on to describe the proceedings of the Special Group on 6 December and indicated he was not personally present during the entire discussion of the [REDACTED] question. After the meeting [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED] who recounted an exchange he had with Mr. McCone. Apparently [REDACTED] had questioned the Director about the decision to immediately resume [REDACTED] flights. Mr. McCone is alleged to have replied, "There is no need to worry about that because we don't plan to fly any missions this month." In conclusion [REDACTED] informed

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[REDACTED] that the Department's position is unchanged and that they insist upon review and approval of the revised [REDACTED] contingency plan before any missions are undertaken. [REDACTED] said that the minutes from the 6 December meeting will reflect the foregoing and in effect will constitute a continuation of the [REDACTED] operational mission stand-down.

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4. [REDACTED] further indicated that if, in the meantime, we are able to secure appropriate approval for the new [REDACTED] contingency plan, then we should prepare for Special Group consideration on 19 December the necessary recommendations to return the [REDACTED] Detachment to operational status and to facilitate the export of the replacement U-2 for the [REDACTED]

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Executive Officer, OSA

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EO/OSA/ [REDACTED] 11 Dec 63)

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